

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. -- James Monroe

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Farmers Mobilized For War Production

President Calls Upon Farmers to Meet Growing Needs of U. S. and Allies for Food

MANY PROBLEMS UNSOLVED

Shortage of Farm Labor, Question of Prices Among Issues to Come Before Congress

President Roosevelt has set aside January 12 as Farm Mobilization Day. On this day farmers are asked, wherever possible, to meet with federal and state farm officials to discuss ways and means of increasing the production of necessary foods.

At the very time that the farmers are talking production problems over with farm experts throughout the country, the Office of Price Administration will be working at top speed in preparation for the rationing of a great variety of foods. This emphasizes the fact of food scarcity and proves the necessity for the more careful planning of production by the farmers.

We may be certain that the farmers will take seriously the call which the President has issued. They will consult with farm agents, will find out the kinds of foods that are most urgently needed, and will give consideration to farming methods by which production of these essentials may be increased.

Problems Involved

But farmers cannot solve the production problem merely by good resolutions, or even by adopting more efficient methods. This will help. But to a certain extent the increase of farm production depends upon the solution of problems which are out of the farmers' hands. It depends in part upon the wisdom of governmental policies.

Leaders of farm organizations emphasize this fact. They say that when the farmers get together on Mobilization Day they should discuss not merely the crops which should be raised and other problems of efficiency on the farm, but also political problems affecting farmers. These farm organization leaders are planning to call the attention of Congress to measures which the farmers consider necessary to their own welfare and to an increase of production.

There will be a better chance for a wise solution of these questions of public policy if people generally understand the problems which affect the farmers and which also affect the production of foods. It is appropriate, therefore, that Farm Mobilization Day be made the occasion for a widespread study, by all classes of the population, of farmers' problems and needs and of proposed legislation now under consideration.

Farmers are being asked to increase the production of many items of food above the figure for last year. It is very important that they do this.

(Concluded on page 8)



American soldiers in the Solomons

The Habit of Excellence

By Walter E. Myer

Let us suppose that you are preparing for an airplane flight. You go to the field and are ready to enter the plane and be whisked away into the air to a height of thousands of feet. You suddenly realize how much you are depending upon the pilot. You are placing your life in his hands. You will be safe only if he is skillful, only if he is competent, careful, reliable. You ask someone if he knows anything about this pilot whom you are trusting with your life, and receive this reply: "Oh, he is fairly good. He doesn't know too much about a plane, and now and then he makes a rather serious slip, but on the whole he does pretty well. I should say that he is at least fair."

Or suppose that a member of your family is dangerously ill. You ask about a physician whom you are thinking of calling, and you are told that he is perhaps average, that he is not the most skillful physician in the city, and that he does not devote himself wholeheartedly to his work. He is, however, the best golfer in the county. He had an excellent record in athletics while in school and maintains leadership along that line. He is also a good fellow, a good mixer, quite a likable chap.

Will you trust the pilot or the physician in such a case? Of course you will not, because when much is at stake you want the very best. You are not satisfied with mediocrity. You are looking for someone who knows, someone who is giving to his work the very best of his powers, someone who is not only capable but reliable.

Such are the requirements in hundreds and thousands of key positions in every industry and profession. Our civilization depends for its advancement upon the supply of men and women whose skill is unquestioned. For these positions mediocrity will not do. Advances in industry and science are not made by those who are satisfied with shoddy work or merely average achievement. Life is not made safe by such persons, nor are happiness and well-being served.

It is well for every young man and woman to ponder these facts. Each may well ask: "How do I stand? What will those who demand excellence say when they are told what my standing is? Am I fitting myself for one of those key positions in American life, for a position which calls for unquestioned skill and reliability? Am I preparing to be a key man in American labor or business or science or art? Am I to be one of whom people will expect and in whom they will find thoroughness and proved responsibility?"

For there is such a thing as a habit of excellence, just as there is such a thing as a habit of shoddiness. If you cannot be depended upon to do well the work which comes to you today, there is no good reason to think that you will face about and prove wholly reliable later on when the nature of your tasks has changed.

Battle For Pacific Grows In Intensity

Recent U. S. Bombing Raid Over Wake Island Causes Severe Damage to Japanese

KISKA SUFFERS NEW BLOWS

Tojo Warns His People of Long, Hard War Plus Danger of Damaging Air Attacks Over Japan

Developments in the Pacific theater of war have been moving along at a fast pace in recent days. At the turn of the year, Premier Tojo warned the Japanese people that the war in the Pacific has just begun and that they must be prepared for the possibility of bombing attacks. His utterances were in sharp contrast to his previous optimistic and boastful statements. Apparently, Japan's losses in New Guinea, the Solomons, and on the sea have begun to shake the confidence of the Japanese leaders.

Shortly after Tojo's warning, American bombers launched an extremely heavy air raid on Wake Island. The Japanese, it is reported, were taken completely by surprise and wide-scale damage was done to their airports, hangars, and other military installations. This island is within striking distance, by air, of Midway, which we are building into a powerful fortress. The day may not be far off when we will avenge the heroic defenders of Wake—those courageous Americans who refused to yield to the Japanese invaders until they had used up their last ounce of resistance.

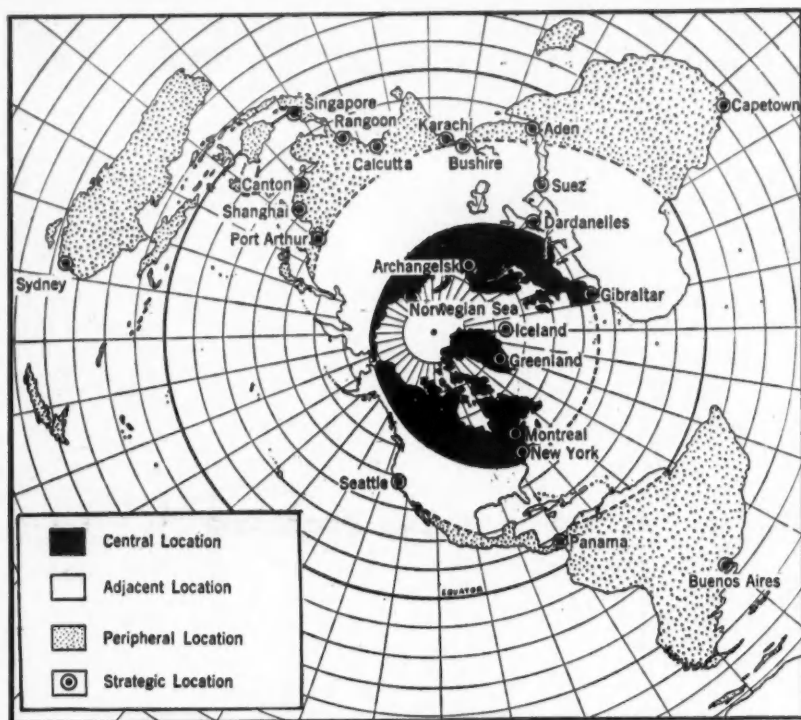
Pacific Theater

Simultaneously with our bombing attack of Wake, American planes also stepped up their air raids on the Japanese positions at Kiska, one of the Aleutian Islands. It is admitted that the enemy has strengthened his position in Kiska during recent weeks, and that it may be difficult to drive him out of this island. But the job is being tackled with determination, and we shall be reading of frequent bombing attacks over this area. When the time is ripe, our forces may be expected to make an invasion.

Thus, the Pacific arena is engaging the increasing attention of military leaders and spectators alike. It is difficult for the average person to realize the vastness of this theater of war—the tremendous distances involved. There would be less impatience among Americans over the slow progress of our fighting forces in the Pacific if each of us had a true picture in our minds of the immensity of this ocean; in fact, there would be amazement that we had done so much, in so short a time, against such colossal natural obstacles.

W. B. Courtney, correspondent of *Collier's*, who has traveled across the Pacific by troop transport, and who has visited the leading island war fronts, calls the ocean the "biggest,"

(Continued on page 6)



(From a map in "Human Geography for the Air Age," by George T. Renner. Macmillan.)

Facts for the Air Age

Shifting Geography

THE airplane has not changed the shape of the world. The globe still contains the same oceans, the same mountains, the same cities and masses of land. What the airplane has changed is the relative importance of these places, these geographic locations. By their very location on the globe, some cities have become more important than ever, while to others the Air Age means some loss in prominence.

But this is by no means a new happening. In the days when men moved westward by covered wagon, one of the outstanding geographic locations along their way was Independence, Missouri. The coming of railroads, however, created a new geographic location of importance—Chicago, where the networks of rails from east and west were joined.

Or take the days when the world's commerce centered in the Mediterranean Sea. Venice was then a place of geographic importance, because at the head of the Adriatic it was the gateway to Europe. But when the center of commerce moved to the North Atlantic, Venice declined, and Europe's new gateways were the

mouths of the Weser, Elbe, Rhine, and Thames Rivers.

Every new development in transportation—the sailing ship, river barges and canals, the steamship, the railroad—has had the same effect on geographic locations. And now the airplane is shifting the picture again, making it necessary for us to change many of our ideas about geography.

As the above map shows, the North Pole is the focal point at which many of the world's most important air lanes will cross. The polar region itself is probably not destined for importance, except for the routes that pass above it. They will connect the land masses grouped around the pole—North America, Europe, and much of Asia and Africa. It is obvious that the central locations of Greenland and Iceland make them key points on the travel lanes of the Air Age. The cities designated on the central area of the map are located where they make good gateways to the continents.

Cities farther out are by no means doomed. Many of them will be needed as corridors to great areas of population or to important production regions. They will also continue to serve the established sea and land transportation lines, which aviation is not yet—and may never be—able to displace entirely.

But we cannot think of these cities, or the rest of the world, in the same way that we did when there was no airplane. From now on we must remember that the plane has changed the values of many geographic locations—changed them one way or the other. This fact, one of the most important in the Air Age, must underlie the nation's thinking, its plans for trade, its relations with other nations.

If the United States fails to do this, if it neglects to bring its ideas about geography up to date, we shall fall behind. We shall still look upon the world as if there were no airplane. And even though a few leaders keep the new geography in mind, they will be held back by the failure of the rest of the people to understand what has happened.

Sidelights on the News

THE choice of General Henri Giraud as successor to the late Admiral Darlan has been widely acclaimed by the American public and the American press. Typical of the newspaper comment is the following editorial in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch:

General Henri Honore Giraud, who has been installed as High Commissioner of French Africa in succession to the assassinated Darlan, is an old soldier with a good military record. Since he is not only committed to Allied success but says that "there is but one aim: Victory!" his attainments and reputation as a fighting man mean more at the moment than his political views.

As for the latter, Gen. Giraud is definitely reactionary, but the relative importance of this fact is better seen when we remember that almost invariably French officers are reactionaries in politics.

Certainly this is no major point against Gen. Giraud in the present situation. Lieut. Gen. Eisenhower, Allied commander in North Africa, says he is "delighted" with the choice, and there is every reason to believe that he fully means this, as Gen. Giraud was the first choice of the American command for the post which was assumed by Darlan. It is quite plain too, that the new High Commissioner is acceptable to the DeGaulleists and so will satisfy the Fighting French in a way that Darlan, the one-time Nazi collaborator, never could.

Finally, as the selection of Darlan's soldier associates, all of whom went over to the Allies after the recognition of Darlan, Gen. Giraud will have the support and respect which the ranking Frenchman in North Africa must have at this critical time. The present hour calls for a man who can unify the diverse elements loyal to France. Gen. Giraud is a practical choice to achieve that end.



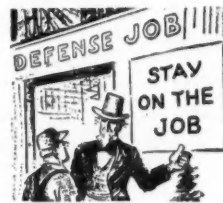
RAYMOND CLAPPER, syndicated columnist, voices an earnest warning to labor in a recent article appearing throughout the chain of Scripps-Howard Newspapers to which he contributes regularly:

The new Congress, which comes in just after New Year's, is certain to be more anti-union than the old Congress. Labor has had some scares in the present Congress but labor is going to be far less secure from now on—less secure than it has been at any time since Mr. Roosevelt became President.

Congress will be less under White House influence than before. Violent anti-labor southern Democrats have new allies in the Republicans who have come back in droves from the Middle West farm section, which is now a bitter anti-labor section.

Not only that, but this is not 1933. Now there is plenty of work at good wages. The political attitude during the depression was quite different from what it is today. Then a 40-hour week was a desirable spread-the-work arrangement. Now it only gets in the way. There was more time and patience to go through the wrangling that the Wagner act involved. Now there is no time and there is less patience. The war hits everybody and nobody cares to make an exception for labor. The whole climate here, which in 1933 was warm toward labor legislation, is now chilled.

Labor people ought to be smart enough to see that they are in bad now. They ought to see that they have overplayed on the public's sympathy and have got the public against them now instead of with them as in the early Roosevelt days. Labor legislation won't be repealed because of speeches by the officers of the National Association of Manufacturers nearly as quickly as it will be through public disgust with labor's conduct.



A NOTE of praise for J. Edgar Hoover and his G-men appears in the current Reader's Digest, reprinted from the magazine Future. Author Frederick L. Collins asserts:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is doing a superlative war job. So far there have been no Black Tom disasters; thousands of potential saboteurs are under arrest or close surveillance; and the backbone of the German and Japanese espionage systems within our borders has been broken.

The roundups that began just after Pearl Harbor were marvels of split-second timing. Agents-in-charge in FBI field offices had the lists of those they were to arrest; their plans were laid. All Director J. Edgar Hoover had to do was to push the button. Within a week 3,000 potential spies and saboteurs were behind bars.

The FBI accomplished these things because it was ready. Long before the war, Mr. Hoover sent FBI men to visit the police departments of Europe. There they learned the tricks of espionage: secret inks, modern coding, and ciphering, the organization of rioting and street fighting, and the sabotaging of machinery. From their findings the Bureau compiled its textbooks.

After the war began, the FBI was informed continually of the lessons that British counterespionage organizations were learning from practical experience. Mr. Hoover constantly brought special agents in from the field to teach them how to combat the new espionage techniques. This training produced a type of agent able to cope with the best that the German Gestapo or the Italian Ova would be able to send against us.

What this country needs is more J. Edgar Hoovers and more federal bureaus with the imagination, speed, and efficiency of the FBI.



THE menace of the German military caste, as distinguished from the Nazis, is forcefully pointed out in an article by Henry W. Ehrmann in this month's Current History. Mr. Ehrmann says:

That for the German army the Nazi movement was a means to an end does not at all imply that the Nazis are merely the instruments to carry out what the military leaders want. Hitler has usually been the stronger party, and even today it is wishful thinking to consider him as nothing more than the prisoner of the generals. Yet it is possible that the day the generals are convinced that the present war cannot be won, they might try to take over and once more save "their" Germany.

What the experience of the Weimar Republic and of the Treaty of Versailles teaches is that neither constitutional changes nor a military control commission nor an army of occupation can guarantee a peaceful Germany. A control commission will never be able to inspect all "heating pipe lines" or "subleased buildings." A long armed occupation will not bring about an abatement of the revengeful militaristic spirit nor hinder a new conspiracy.

The roots of German militarism will be eradicated only when the military caste and their supporters are permanently deprived of their political power and their economic strength. To achieve this must be one of the prime conditions of peace.



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Wallace's Blueprint for Postwar World

By CLAY COSS

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT and Vice-President Wallace have brought the problem of postwar planning prominently to the attention of this country and the world. The President's statement was made on the anniversary of the signing of the Compact of the United Nations, and the Vice-President's address was delivered on Woodrow Wilson's birthday. President Roosevelt spoke in general terms, while the Vice-President's recommendations were more detailed.

President Roosevelt emphasized the necessity of making this really "the last war." He outlined the threefold task of the United Nations in these words:

First, to press on with the massed forces of free humanity until the present bandit assault upon civilization is completely crushed.

Second, so to organize relations among nations that forces of barbarism can never again break loose.

Third, to cooperate to the end that mankind may enjoy in peace and in

stressed by Vice-President Wallace:

The first duty of this generation is to organize human affairs so that no Hitler or other warmonger can plunge the world into bloodshed. The attempt to bring about such an organization was made by Woodrow Wilson when he worked for a League of Nations. It is commonly said that President Wilson failed. "We now know that it was the world that failed and the suffering and war of the last few years and the penalty it is paying for its failure."

The situation of the world today is much like that of the United States just before the adoption of the Constitution. "Today, measured by travel time, the whole world is actually smaller than was our little country then. When George Washington was inaugurated, it took seven days to go by horse-drawn vehicle from Mt. Vernon to New York. Now Army bombers are flown from the United States to China and India in less than three days."

The articles of confederation were not strong enough in the early days of our republic and the League of Nations was not strong enough when it was organized after the First World War. We must have a better kind of organization. Each nation must have liberty and freedom and the right to do as it pleases on purely national affairs. There must be a strong central organization which will keep the nations from fighting each other—an organization strong enough to handle purely international problems.

There should be an International Court to make decisions in cases of dispute and a World Council.

This machinery should be set up by the United Nations.

After the war, Germany and Japan should be disarmed. Their guilty leaders should be punished and the United Nations should supervise the school systems of these countries, "to undo so far as possible the diabolic work of Hitler and the Japanese in poisoning the minds of the young."

There should, however, be no revenge for the sake of revenge. An effort should be made to make international trade as free as possible, so that all people will have a chance to develop their prosperity.

The United Nations must relieve the distress of the populations of the territories now conquered by Germany and Japan. A large part of this burden will fall upon the United States.

"As territory previously overrun by the Germans and the Japs is reoccupied by the forces of the United Nations, measures of relief and rehabilitation will have to be undertaken. Later, out of the experience of these temporary measures of relief, there will emerge the possibilities and the practicalities of more permanent reconstruction."

We must plan for the postwar period in our own country, as well as in the world at large. We will encounter very grave dangers as we turn from war to peace. In the peak year



Did Wilson's League fail—or did the world fail the League?

A. PASCHE, GENEVA

of the war we will be spending about 90 billion dollars for the war effort. Two years later we will probably be spending less than 20 billion dollars for military purposes. In the peak year of the war, 30 million men and women will either be in the armed services or in the war industries and at least half of them will be looking for different kinds of jobs within two years of the close of the war.

If we do not plan carefully how to transform our war factories and the factories making peacetime goods, and if we do not plan for the full employment of all the people, we may have a very serious and dangerous depression.

We should not quarrel about how much of this work of reemployment should be done by private industry and how much by government.

"How much more sensible it would be if our people could be supplied with the facts, and then, through orderly discussion, could arrive at a common understanding of what needs to be done!"

Vice-President Wallace closes his address in a hopeful spirit. He says:

"And now we of this generation, trusting in Providence to guide our steps, go forward to meet the challenge of our day. For the challenge we all face is the challenge of a new democracy. In the new democracy there will be a place for everyone—the worker, the farmer, the businessman, the housewife, the doctor, the salesman, the teacher, the student, the store clerk, the taxi driver, the preacher, the engineer—all the mil-

lions who make up our modern world.

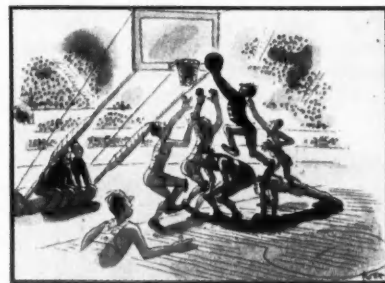
"This new democracy will give us freedom such as we have never known, but only if as individuals we perform our duties with willing hearts. It will be an adventure in sharing—sharing of duties and responsibilities and sharing of the job that can come from the give-and-take of human contacts and fruitful daily living."

♦ SMILES ♦

"Yes, ma'am," said the old sailor, "during the last war the ship I was on was sunk in the Atlantic and I lived on a can of sardines for a week."

"Tell me," she asked, "weren't you afraid of falling off?"

—WALL STREET JOURNAL



"Boy, talk about teamwork . . . !"

DAY IN COLLIER'S

For two hours he had been the pest of the party, giving terrible imitations of everything from George Arliss to a hummingbird. In a far corner sat a man obviously "fed up."

"What would you like to see me imitate now?" asked the bore.

The man spoke up: "How about a ground hog that's seen its shadow?"

—THE LINE

"I hear that Farmer Brown's hired man left him."

"Yes, he said he couldn't stand the cold."

"Why, it's no colder on the farm this year than usual."

"No, but he heard over the radio that farm labor was to be frozen this year."

—MONITOR

Three Canadian soldiers sleeping in an English camp were awakened by a terrific crash nearby.

"What was that—thunder or bombs?" asked one.

"Bombs," was the brief reply.

"Thank goodness," said the first. "I thought we were going to have more rain!"

—MONTREAL STAR

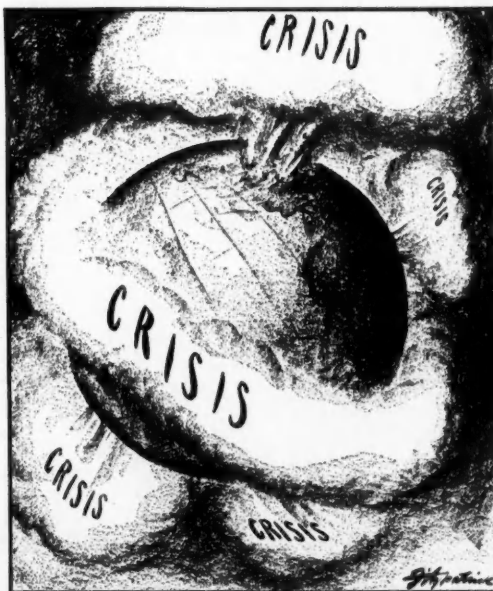
Then there was the cat who joined the Medical Corps to see if she could become a first aid kit.

—SCRIPPAGE

Someone has given out the information that we move in our sleep on an average of every 15 minutes. A man who weighs 150 pounds, changing position four times an hour, would move 600 pounds an hour—4,800 pounds during an eight-hour sleep.

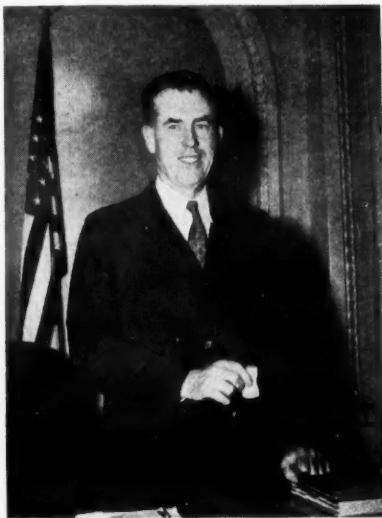
We have decided that's why, rather than laziness, we're so tired in the morning that we can hardly get out of bed.

—SELECTED



CRISIS IN ONE PART OF THE WORLD ENDANGERS PEOPLE LIVING IN ANOTHER PART.

FITZPATRICK IN ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH



Henry A. Wallace

freedom the unprecedented blessings which Divine Providence, through the progress of civilization, has put within our reach.

In commenting informally on our great war objective, he said:

"There is one thing which at the present time stands out as the most important war objective, and that is to maintain peace, so that all of us, in going through this war, including the men on the fighting fronts and on the seas, will not have to go through a world cataclysm again—that they will have some reasonable assurance that their children won't have to go through it again.

"Almost all the other things we hope to get out of the war are more or less dependent on the maintenance of peace—all kinds of planning for the future, economic and social, and so forth and so on. It isn't much use if there is going to be another world war in 10 years, or 15 years or 20 years. All the planning for the future is dependent, obviously, on peace."

The address on postwar problems which Vice-President Wallace delivered on the occasion of Woodrow Wilson's birthday has been widely quoted and discussed. It has encouraged those who hold that we should actively engage in planning for permanent peace and it has brought reconstruction issues prominently into the news. Here, in condensed form, are the principal points

The Story of the Week



U. S. MARINE CORPS FROM ACME

SUPPLIES FOR THE ARMED FORCES. The American soldier is the best equipped and the best fed in the world. Sacrifices on the home front help to keep him so.

The Russian Campaign

The Russians continued to make gains during the week. A really important victory was won in the capture of Velikie Luki. This city is west, and a little north, of Moscow, and it is directly south of Leningrad. Its importance lies in the fact that it is a vital railway center.

There is a railway running south from Leningrad and extending across the greater part of Russia. Another road runs westward from this town through Latvia, and connects with the Baltic Sea. The Germans use this railway to carry goods from Germany to the battle line which extends southward from Leningrad. Goods shipped to this point may be dis-



ACME

BACK TO CHINA goes the military mission sent here by Chiang Kai-shek. The recall is interpreted as a sign of Chinese displeasure over the amount of aid received from her allies.

tributed to the German armies to the northward or the southward.

Now the Russians have captured this railway junction, and it is more difficult for the Germans to supply their fighting forces.

Farther south, the Russian armies have completely surrounded the German force, which is besieging Stalingrad. In this connection, an interesting question suggests itself. We read that the "track" around Stalingrad has closed, that the Russians have surrounded the German armies. How, then, can this encircled German force of 150,000 to 300,000 men survive when their lines of communication have been broken?

To answer that question, we must picture the situation in this way: Russian armies have indeed forced their way to the rear of the Germans who are at Stalingrad. They are in possession of the railway lines running to Stalingrad. Hence, goods

cannot be shipped by rail to the German forces who are at the gates of that city.

It is not to be supposed, however, that when the Russians march back to the rear of the Germans their army is stretched out in a solid line. What happens is that, as the army marches forward, it occupies certain centers, certain villages perhaps, but there are always spaces in between where there is no army or even a sentinel line. So, though the Germans cannot send supplies by rail to their army at Stalingrad, they can probably get a good many trucks through by dodging the points which the Russians occupy. It is a hazardous business, and many of the trucks are, of course, captured. But quite a little food and supplies do get through in this way.

The Germans also send supplies by air transport, though this, too, is a difficult and dangerous operation. The German army at Stalingrad, of course, has a great deal of food stored away, so with what they can get through by truck and air transport they can survive for a while.

Eventually, however, the surrounded army must either break through or else the soldiers will die or be taken prisoners. It may be several weeks before this happens. It should be said, however, that the Russians continue to invade the territory in the rear of Stalingrad. The belt which they occupy is becoming wider, and this makes it ever more difficult for the Germans to supply their encircled army.

China Disagrees

In the politest of diplomatic gestures, China has just told the United States that she is somewhat concerned about our view toward the war in the Pacific and Far East. She has recalled her special military mission to this country, headed by General Hsiung Shih-fei. This, in the language of diplomacy, is a way of telling the United States that we might well consider the desirability not only of giving increased lend-lease aid to China, but also of exerting more of our own military might in the war against Japan.

China appreciates the difficulties of a global war, and she is not one to underrate the importance of disposing of Germany as an enemy. But

she also feels that, having fought Japan since 1937, she can speak with some authority on the strength of the Far Eastern foe. If the other United Nations concentrate too much on defeating Germany, China fears, it will give Japan plenty of time to consolidate past conquests. China knows that Japan is digging in, tightening the noose around conquered lands, and making use of the raw materials and other booty she has seized.

What the effect of China's recent gesture will be is uncertain. The general and his mission are already slated to return to the United States in the future, but in the meanwhile the United States will probably have to find some way of reassuring China that we have a grudge against Japan, too, and that the day of reckoning is not too far away.

Battle of Tunisia

The campaign to drive the Germans out of Tunisia is not going well. So far as we can tell from the meager reports which come to us, little progress is being made. Though the British and Americans have taken positions not far from German-occupied Tunis and Bizerte, no large-scale attack has been made. There seems even to be a possibility that the Germans may take the offensive and strike at our armies.

Many people have expressed disappointment over the way things are going in North Africa, but the difficulties in the operation we have undertaken must be kept in mind. From Morocco, where some of our soldiers landed, to Tunisia the distance is about 800 miles. It is 300 miles from Algiers to Tunis. The supply lines are, therefore, long, and some of the roads are not good. The Germans, on the other hand, are near their base of supplies in Sicily. Despite our naval patrol, they get many shiploads of provisions across, and have little difficulty in sending men and supplies by air transport.

Another difficulty comes from the fact that we must keep a large part of our forces in Morocco and Algeria, because there is always the possibility of revolt. The Arabs may become unfriendly, and the French cannot be depended upon absolutely.

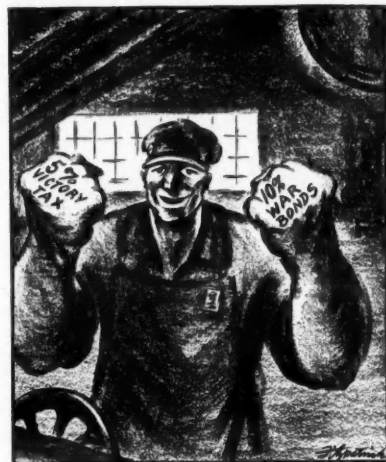
No one can tell when the influence of the pro-German Vichy French government may get the upper hand. We are, therefore, operating in a territory which is not dependably friendly.

Furthermore, it is very hard to supply and reinforce our armies. Men and materials must be sent by sea either from England or from the United States. It is estimated that a pack of 300 submarines infest these sea lanes. This means that we cannot send in either men or supplies unless the ships are very heavily guarded.

Taking into account the difficulties of the campaign, there is no reason to think that it is not being skillfully conducted. There is no blinking the fact, however, that a hard struggle lies ahead, and that many disappointments will be encountered.

Best-Equipped Army

One of the most closely guarded of all military secrets is the type of new weapons which are being developed



It takes both

FITZPATRICK IN ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

for the United States armed forces. Every month, new types of war weapons are being used by our fighting men. Others are entering production, and still others are in the experimental stage. A few days ago, Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson invited a number of newspapermen to visit some of the testing centers for the Army Air Forces, for the ordnance branch of the Army, and for chemical warfare. Ernest K. Lindley, writing in the *Washington Post*, gives some of his impressions of the inspection tour. Without revealing any military secrets, he makes the following comments:

The display was dazzling, at times almost magical. We saw and learned much that cannot be written about yet, without imparting valuable information to the enemy. But this much can be said with confidence: some surprises are in store for him. For example, there is one secret weapon which will make the American infantryman by far the most formidable fighting man in the world. This weapon has been thoroughly tested and is already being produced in quantity. Other contrivances are in the mill which, to the layman, seem revolutionary in their potentialities. The American people will be thrilled when it learns about the accomplishments of some of these weapons. . . .

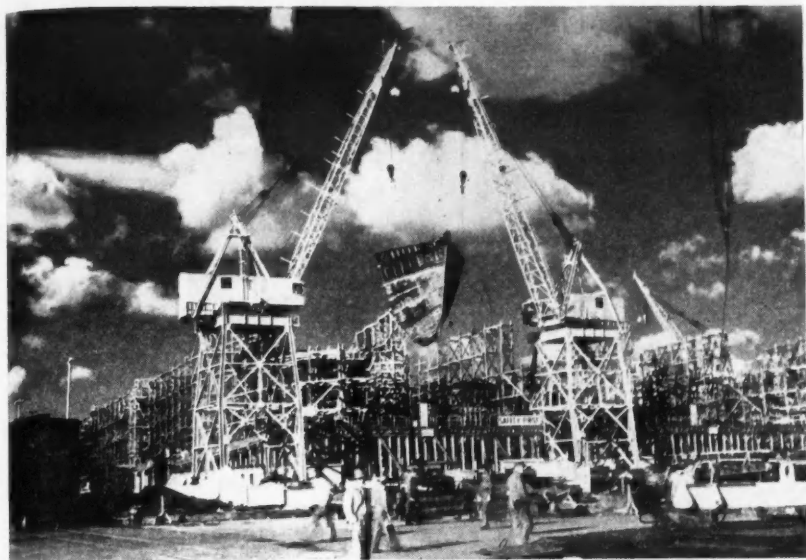
Here and there, a British or a German weapon or plane may have an edge on ours. But, across the board, the American Army undoubtedly is the best equipped in the world. And considering the newer devices which are now coming along, it seems likely that during the next few years we will lead in quality, as well as quantity, of weapons.

AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY'S RECORD IN ONE YEAR SINCE PEARL HARBOR:

UNIT PRODUCTION OF PLANES UP 100% +	
TONNAGE PRODUCTION OF PLANES UP 300%	
FACTORY SPACE UP 75%	
NUMBER OF PLANTS UP 70%	
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES UP 130%	
MAN-HOURS UP 155%	
WOMEN EMPLOYEES UP 2575%	
AIRCRAFT ENGINE HORSE-POWER UP 240%	
\$ DOLLAR VOLUME OF OUTPUT UP 160%	

Aircraft construction—the record of one year's work.

N. Y. TIMES



U. S. MARITIME COMMISSION

SHIPS VS. SUBS. The race to build ships faster than Axis submarines can sink them goes on. The United Nations are holding their own in this race but the toll taken by submarines is still very high.

Goals for 1943

War production for 1943, as pictured a few days ago by the armed forces and the WPB, will place the greatest emphasis on planes, merchant ships, and naval ships. The production of tanks, artillery, ammunition, and motor vehicles will be reduced somewhat. Here are some of the major goals:

Planes. "About twice the number and about four times the weight of planes built in 1942, with emphasis continued on bombers designed to carry the maximum destruction to the enemy fighting forces and industrial centers."

Cargo ships. "More than twice the merchant ship tonnage of 1942 in order to assure delivery of critically needed supplies to our ground and air forces and those of our Allies."

Naval escorts. "A considerable increase in the naval escort vessel program in order to afford protection for merchant shipping operating on supply lines to all corners of the globe."

Warships. "More naval combat vessels so that our sea power will be able to carry the fight to enemy fleets and operating bases."

To accommodate this program, it was necessary to pare the amount of materials for tanks, artillery, and other supplies. And it will come as no surprise to those on the home front that what is left will provide for "a lean but healthy civilian economy."

The entire program, of course, is subject to any changes which the demands of the war may impose. But it is reasonably certain that the broad goals for air power and transportation will be maintained.

Money for War

December was a banner month for the United States Treasury. In the biggest money-borrowing campaign which the world has ever known, it raised nearly \$13,000,000,000. This "history-making total," as Secretary Morgenthau called it a few days ago, was nearly four billion higher than the goal which had been set for the month.

Encouraging though the results were, they do not represent a true picture of the month-to-month bond-buying. A large share of the total raised in December was obtained from banks, insurance companies, wealthy estates and individuals, and other "heavy" investors. From time

to time—perhaps every three or four months—the Treasury will conduct one of these concentrated drives to borrow money in big chunks.

But the average individual's bond and stamp purchases must be made week by week, month by month. Throughout all of last year, these sales fell a good deal short of the \$12,000,000,000 goal which the Treasury had set for 1942. In fact, the total purchases of savings bonds for 1942 were \$9,156,958,000—a figure which will have to be exceeded by a good margin this year.

There are figures without end to illustrate the staggering cost of this war; Congress receives new ones this month in the President's annual budget message. But it is enough to say that, according to present estimates, government spending will amount to about \$84,000,000,000 in the fiscal, or bookkeeping, year which ends next June 30. Of this amount, nearly \$60,000,000,000 will have been borrowed. And Congress will probably have to raise the national debt limit from the present top of \$125,000,000,000 to \$200,000,000,000.

Supply of Ships

When the United States entered the war, this country had seven million tons of merchant shipping. Shortly thereafter we embarked on a great ship-building program. We determined to build 24 million tons in two years. During 1942, we built eight million tons which was more than all that we had when the war started. During 1943, it is estimated that we will build 16 million tons—

24 million tons in two years. We will build 2,300 merchant ships with an average tonnage of about 10,500 each.

We must not only build ships, but we must keep them afloat. The Germans are sinking ships at the rate of about six a day. They are not sinking that many United States vessels, but they are sinking six United Nations ships. It is possible that they are sinking at the rate of 10 million or 12 million tons a year. One estimate is that they are sinking a million tons a month.

Last year they were sinking ships faster than we could build them—faster than all the United Nations could build them. But during 1943 we will be building one and a third million tons a month. This means that we are now building ships faster than they are being sunk.

When a ship is sunk, not only is the vessel lost, but the cargo is also destroyed. This means that a great deal of the materials and supplies we are producing goes to the bottom of the sea. If, however, we build ships faster than the Germans can sink them, and if we produce supplies as fast as we can transport them, we



UNITED NATIONS STAMP. This postage stamp has been issued by the Post Office in honor of the United Nations.

will win the Battle of the Atlantic. The Germans had pinned their hopes on the submarine campaign. They had boasted that they could keep us from delivering men and supplies to the fighting fronts, and could keep

our power from becoming effective. They are indeed inflicting terrific losses upon us, but there is reason to believe that we can overcome the threat of the submarine, and can win in spite of its ravages. This is indeed one of the important objectives of our naval leaders as we enter the year 1943, because our success in the global war depends upon ability to send men and supplies to the far-flung fighting fronts.

News Quiz of the Week

(Answers on page 8, column 4)

1. You have probably seen the names "Bunker Hill" and "Belleau Wood" in the news recently. Do you know what kind of ships these names apply to, and how you can tell?
2. New Georgia Island has been in the news in recent weeks. Can you locate it?
3. What prominent American has urged an international council and an international court after the war in order to help preserve world peace?
4. Dispatches from Russia frequently describe trenches around Stalingrad in terms of meters. How long is a meter?
5. You would undoubtedly recognize Joseph Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili if you met him on the street. Do you know who this world-famous man is?
6. Of course you know that the Gestapo is the secret state police of Germany. The OVRA is also a secret state police organization. Do you know where you would find it?
7. According to the latest census how many manufacturing plants are there in the United States—24,000; 84,000; 184,000; or 1,840,000?
8. Allied forces have recently undertaken to recapture Akyab, and have bombed Lashio. Both these places are in the same country. What is it?
9. Do you know where in the Western Hemisphere you would find an island largely inhabited by Hindus?
10. Leningrad, the famous Russian city now under siege, has had two other names. Can you name them?
11. In this same connection, can you give the well-known former names for Istanbul in Turkey and Peiping in China?
12. What city in Germany, recently bombed by the RAF, is known as the shrine of national socialism?
13. The brother of a famous American general has recently been appointed associate director of OWI. Who is he?

News Items in Brief

Seed kits for victory gardens in Britain, Russia, and other United Nations are now being prepared and distributed by our government. The kits contain such seeds as peas, beans, cabbages, carrots, radishes, and onions. In all, more than 50,000,000 pounds of American seeds will be planted around the world.

Presidents, Indian chieftains, heroines of the American Revolution, and senators are among the famous Americans of the past for whom new Liberty ships have been named by the nation's young people. In each of the 48 states, schools which took part in the recent nationwide salvage drive had a voice in the selection.

Hitler is going to have some of his own money fired right back at him—in bullets and bombs from the U. S. A. When eight German saboteurs were landed in this country by submarine last summer, they brought with them more than \$174,000 in cash to finance their activities. With their capture,

the money went to the Treasury, and now it will help to pay for the fight against the Axis.

The nation's government has only a fraction of its employees in the capital city itself. There are six states which have more than 100,000 federal workers apiece. The 283,000 in the District of Columbia compare with 210,000 in New York; 188,600 in Pennsylvania; 154,900 in California; 126,100 in Texas; 113,500 in Virginia; and 104,200 in Massachusetts.

How much food does each person give up in order to help feed our armed forces and our Allies? To the average housewife, it means that one-third of the bacon and pork products which she would ordinarily buy for her family are sent elsewhere; also, one-fifth of the beef and veal, two out of each dozen eggs, an ounce from each pound of butter and cheese, and a small glass from each quart of milk. In addition, fruits, vegetables, and other foods are going.



He can take it.
SEIBEL IN RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH



Global war has turned remote islands of the Pacific into theaters of conflict

PAN PACIFIC PRESS

The Strategic Pacific Islands

(Continued from page 1)

widest, deepest, bluest, quietest, grandest, and wildest." He continues:

"Its area is greater than the entire land surface of the globe. You could drop the United States in any one of several expanses of the Pacific, and none of its frontiers would touch as much as an islet. Yet its map in many places is as salted with islands as the Milky Way is with stars; although even here you may cruise among them for days, as our transport did, and not sight land—so far are they apart.

"The Pacific is nearly twice as large as the North and South Atlantic combined, and it has more than double their total amount of water. It contains more than half of all the water on earth, including oceans, seas, rivers, and lakes. It is more than 9,000 miles long from the Bering Sea to the Antarctic Circle; and it is 10,000 miles wide at the equator. It takes the sun nearly 10 hours to cross it, or nearly one half of its day's journey. It has the greatest known depths—the Philippines, east of the islands, and the Nero, off Guam, for instance, both going down six miles or more. Its average depth is over two and a half miles."

Importance of Islands

When it comes to size, therefore, there is nothing on this earth that can compare with the Pacific. We are used to hearing of planes which can make a nonstop flight across the Atlantic within half a day, but no plane yet built can traverse the entire width of the Pacific without stopping somewhere for fuel.

It is this very fact of distance which has given such importance to the lavish sprinkling of islands in the mighty ocean. The Far Eastern war has become in large part a war for islands, because islands are the bases, the resting places, the stationary aircraft carriers, which naval, air, and land forces must have in order to operate on such a vast stage.

Japan has long understood the vital part which islands may play in any Pacific war, and began many years

ago to push forward her bases. After the First World War, she was given control over a large number of Pacific islands which formerly had belonged to Germany. Since then, she has constructed bases on many of these islands, improved their harbors, installed fortifications, and built airfields.

The United States, Great Britain, and other United Nations have been rapidly making up for lost time in fortifying the Pacific islands still under our control. We are also making headway in regaining some of the lands which Japan took in the early days of the conflict. Let us hastily survey some of the more important islands in the Pacific in order to see the role they are playing in the war. We need to follow the accompanying map on page 7 closely in making this survey.

Let us begin with the Hawaiian Islands. They are, of course, the first line of defense for our western coast. Pearl Harbor is an outstanding naval base, and we have developed a number of airfields on the islands. It is now known that if Japan had attempted an invasion of Hawaii after her destructive attack from the air, she might have succeeded. The bulk of our fleet would then have been in her hands, and our West Coast would be in constant danger of air attacks. Fortunately, however, the Hawaiian Islands are still in our possession, and they are more strongly fortified than ever before.

Guarding Supply Lines

As the map shows, along our shipping and air routes from Hawaii to Australia are a number of islands. Most of them belong to the British, although Samoa is under our control. The chief importance of these islands is that they help to safeguard our supply line to Australia. Patrol planes go out from them every day in search of enemy submarines.

At the southern end of our shipping and air routes to Australia are the Islands of New Hebrides and New Caledonia. The British and French

jointly administer New Hebrides, while the French alone are in control of New Caledonia. We are helping both the French and British to strengthen these islands from a military standpoint. They not only help to guard our supply line to Australia, but they would also be used, in case we should ever be driven out of the Solomons and New Guinea, to help protect Australia herself.

New Guinea, New Britain

Most of us know the importance of the group of islands just north of Australia—New Guinea, New Britain, and the Solomons. Under complete Japanese control, these islands could be used as steppingstones for an invasion of Australia. In our hands, they can be used to protect Australia, and to launch offensives against the rich Netherlands Indies (now under Japanese control), and also against the strategic Caroline Islands to the north.

Before the war, Australia controlled New Guinea, New Britain, and shared with England in the control of the Solomons. After Pearl Harbor, the Japanese won possession of the entire Solomons and the most important parts of New Guinea, but as the map shows, we are gradually regaining territory, pushing the enemy back.

Proceeding northward, we come to the strategically important Caroline Islands. They have been powerfully fortified by the Japanese. The island of Truk is said to be Japan's "Pearl Harbor." It is a large and well-equipped naval base. It and the other neighboring islands are dotted with airfields. The Japanese navy uses Truk as its main operating base in the South Pacific, and we must eventually attack the Carolines in force if we hope to invade Japan by sea.

To the north of the Carolines are the Marianas Islands. All of them except the most important one, Guam, were in the hands of Japan before we entered the war. Guam was in our possession, but we did very little

to fortify it. Considering how it is squeezed in between Japanese territory, it probably could not have held out long even if we had militarized it. As it was, it fell quickly. The Marianas, together with the Bonin Islands, are Japan's second line of defense against sea attack. If we should successfully invade the Carolines, then the Marianas and Bonin Islands would become of great importance to the Japanese.

Kurile Islands

Continuing our circle, we come to the Kurile Islands, which belong to Japan. If Russia goes to war with Japan, it can be seen on the map how important these islands will be, for they practically link Russian and Japanese territory.

Extending out into the Pacific from Alaska are the Aleutian Islands. The Japanese attempted to wrest control of these islands from us and did successfully invade three of them—Attu, Agattu, and Kiska. But we are bombing them with increasing force, and their hold is growing weaker. It is obvious that Alaska and Canada would be in serious danger if the Japanese had seized all the Aleutians. In our hands they may be used for bombing attacks upon Japan proper, for part of their territory is less than 1,500 miles away from that enemy land.

We have now almost completed a great circle of islands. On the inside of this circular pattern are also a number of important islands. One of these is Midway, which we control. It is used to help safeguard the Hawaiian Islands. The Japanese launched a great naval attack upon Midway last summer, but were thrown back in complete defeat. We are strongly fortifying Midway, and it may be used for sea and air attacks against Japan proper. Aircraft carriers going out from there might get close enough to Japan for bombing attacks.

Then there is Wake Island, which fell to the Japanese only after our Marines put up a gloriously heroic fight, taking a heavy toll from the invader. If we had properly fortified Wake before the war, it might have held off against the enemy. In Japanese hands, Wake offers a constant threat to Midway and impairs the effectiveness of that island as a naval and air base. If we can regain Wake, it will put us in closer striking distance of Japan, and generally strengthen our Pacific position.

Two other particularly important groups of islands are the Marshall and Gilbert. The Japanese were in



Situation well in hand.

COAKLEY IN WASHINGTON POST



control of the Marshall group before the war, and they seized the main Gilbert Islands from the British shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Since then we have raided the Japanese positions in the Gilbert Islands by sea and air, although we have not actually invaded the islands. Our supply line to Australia will be safer if we are able to retake this territory; also such a development would put us in striking distance of the Marshall and Caroline Islands. Incidentally, we control the little islands surrounding the Gilbert group—these include Ellice, Howland, and Baker.

Hence, we see the job to be done before we can hope to attack Japan effectively by sea. There are, of course, other possible avenues of approach to Japan—through China or Russia. We may be able to employ one or both of these roads. But no plan can succeed unless we are able to keep open our supply routes to the Far East, and the Pacific, plus its many strategic islands, is of outstanding importance in this respect.

A good many military critics consider the Pacific area as important as the European. They think it is a mistake for the United Nations to concentrate their chief forces in the west with the object of knocking out Germany before turning to Japan. They argue that larger forces should immediately be sent to the Pacific, even though such a plan would subtract somewhat from the power of the attack against Germany.

These critics argue that if we do not take the offensive against Japan in a big way, the Japanese will be able to fortify the territory they have captured so strongly that it will take years to dislodge them. They also point to the danger that if our forces remain relatively weak in the Far East, China may be out of the war.

The high command of the United Nations has decided, however, that only a supreme effort can achieve victory over Germany. The argument is that if all of our forces are put into the fight against Germany, if Russia, Great Britain, and the United States bend every energy in

that direction, then Germany may be defeated by next winter or by the spring of 1944. Then the whole power of the United Nations can turn against Japan and defeat that nation. Victory in the Pacific will not come easily even if Germany is out of the way, but success in that area will be assured.

Neither solution is an entirely happy one. It would be far better if we could carry on an overwhelming offensive against Germany and Japan at the same time; but we were not well prepared for war when it came and are not yet ready to do all that

we need to do in both theaters of the war. In carrying on a global war, a nation is obliged to make difficult decisions concerning the best possible employment of its forces.

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Global Maps

The above map of the Pacific theater of war is one of four special global maps drawn by Kermit Johnson, Civic Education Service artist. The set of four maps, each 18 inches square and large enough to hang on the wall, is available at the price of 10 cents per set.

In addition to the Pacific map, the set includes a Polar map for the Air Age, a map of the Atlantic, African, and European war zones; and a map of the Indian Ocean and Central Asia.

Address: Civic Education Service, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.



The Farm

FSA PHOTO BY ROTHSTEIN

Farmers of Nation Mobilized

(Concluded from page 1)

because they will need so much more food for our armed forces, for our Allies, and for the destitute peoples of the countries which we expect to occupy. But it will not be easy to increase food production. Last year was a very good year. Weather, on the whole, was highly favorable to crops. It will be hard to surpass last year's record. The farmers will try to do it in order to add to their own income and in order to serve the nation. But certain big difficulties stand in the way.

Shortage of Farm Labor

There will be two outstanding problems to be overcome; one is the scarcity of labor to do the farm work, and the other is the scarcity of farm implements and articles of equipment.

The shortage of labor is really serious. One cause of this is the operation of the draft. Some draft boards have been careful not to take into the armed forces farmers whose work on the farms was essential. Other boards have been less particular. In a good many cases little attention has been paid to the need for farm labor. The boards have been concerned only with filling the ranks of the Army. These boards have granted few deferments to farmers on the basis of occupation. In some cases owners of farms have been drafted and have been obliged to sell their stock and implements and to discontinue operation of their farms. Young men on the farms have been taken, with the result that farm work could not go on as usual. In some cases the farms depleted of labor have been sold. In other cases fields are allowed to go untilled, or the work on the farm is done inefficiently, with a resulting lower crop yield.

Dairies, which employ a good many workers, suffered heavily during the last year. Many dairy owners gave up their business and sold their herds. The result of this was not as bad as might at first be supposed, for when a herd was sold the farmers of the neighborhood bought the cows; a number of small farmers each obtaining an additional cow or two. The breaking up of a large dairy herd, however, did result in a considerable cutting down of the to-

tal milk supply, for the small farmers often do not have the equipment for maximum efficiency.

In one respect, the drain of labor from the farms through the draft will be even more serious in the future, for young men from 18 to 20 years will be taken. On the other hand, it is almost certain that there will be more deferments of farm workers now that the draft machinery has been put under the control of the Manpower Commission, headed by Paul V. McNutt.

Labor has been drained away from the farms not only by the draft, but by the lure of higher wages in the war industries. The wage paid to farm workers differs greatly in different parts of the country. In Iowa, many farm workers get as much as \$90 a month, with a house to live in and the privilege of raising much of the food for the family. In the eastern states, a wage of \$50 to \$75 a month, with a house and the privilege of raising food, is more common. In many factories and plants doing war work, workers receive \$200 to \$300 a month, or even more, (counting overtime work). So it is not surprising that many laborers have left the farms. Of course, many industrial workers do not receive the high wages referred to above, especially common laborers.

"Freezing Workers"

To check this tide away from the farms, the Manpower Commission promises to "freeze" workers to the farms by providing that if a farm worker who has been deferred from the draft because of his occupation leaves his occupation and goes into some other kind of work, he will lose his deferment and will be placed in 1-A.

Such a policy may accomplish something, but farmers are not enthusiastic about it. They say that if workers are kept on the farms for fear of being taken into the Army, when they could get more money elsewhere, they will be resentful and not very efficient.

There is much talk about inducing young people in high schools to work on the farms in the summer and during vacation periods. In certain cases this will be very helpful, but it must not be forgotten that certain types

of farming call for experience and skill. Farmers say that it takes about a year for a worker to learn to be a good all-round farm worker.

Another remedy for the farm labor problem is the payment of higher wages. If the farmer paid more money he could get help. He might not be obliged to pay as much as is paid in war industries of cities, for many workers who have grown up on the farms like country life. The expenses in the country are less, so that farm workers would not need wages as high as those paid to city workers. But in order to produce a flow of labor from the city to the country, wages will have to be considerably above the present level.

Farm Prices

The trouble is that most farmers cannot pay much more for labor than they now do and still come out even. It is impossible, in many cases, for them to compete with city employers. This brings us to another solution which is being increasingly urged: Let the farmer pay high wages, it is said, and then let him be paid more money for his crops—enough to make up for the higher production costs due to increased labor charges.

Last fall the farm organizations made a hard fight to get that plan adopted. It had previously been agreed that a limit should be placed upon the prices of farm products. It was agreed further that these prices should be fixed at "parity." This means that the prices should be as high, when compared with other prices, as they were during the five-year period before the First World War. In other words, farmers were to be able to take their wheat, corn, cotton, or potatoes to town and exchange them for as great a quantity of other goods as they could have obtained by exchanging the same amount of products during the period 1909-1914.

The argument made last fall, however, was that the farmer should get something in addition to these parity prices—enough to make up for the difference between the wages they paid for farm labor before the First World War and the wages they must now pay. This meant that the farmer should be as well off as he was back

in 1914, taking into account the fact that he must now pay higher wages.

There is much to be said for a plan of this kind, but there is one strong argument against it. If the price of foods and other things which the farmers sell is raised, the cost of living to people everywhere will increase. Food will cost more. City workers, seeing their cost of living rise, will demand higher wages. Otherwise their standards of living will fall. It will be hard to deny these demands. So wages in the cities will go up.

In order to compete with these high wages the farmers must boost the wages for farm labor. Then their prices must advance again. This will be followed by another boost in wages all along the line, with further raising of prices, and the first thing we know, we will be in the midst of the "upward spiral" of prices, which will lead eventually to uncontrolled inflation.

This argument seemed so convincing last fall that the demands of the farm organizations were denied. It was held that the only safe course was to stop price and wage rises all along the line. But a new Congress was elected in November. The farm bloc is probably more powerful now than it was in the old Congress, so the issue of increased prices for farm products will be fought all over again.

The other big problem of the farmer is the scarcity of machinery. It is almost impossible for a farmer to put up a new chicken house so that he can raise more poultry; or to build a new fence, or to buy a tractor, or a plow or a harvester. The trouble is that the material used for the manufacture of these things is needed for the building of tanks and other varieties of war equipment.

This is the kind of problem which the War Production Board is meeting every day. Work which is absolutely essential to the war effort is being curtailed in certain places, because a sufficient quantity of material cannot be obtained. But if the plant where this work is being done were given all the material it needed, other plants doing equally necessary work would be further curtailed. There simply is not enough steel and rubber and other essential raw material to go around—even to the essential war industries.

The farmers call for more machinery; so do other war industries. Just how much should be allocated to one essential industry and how much to another, is a highly technical problem which can be determined only by Donald Nelson and his advisers.

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Answers to News Quiz

1. Aircraft carriers; the U. S. usually names its carriers after famous battles in American history.
2. In the Solomons.
3. Vice-President Wallace.
4. 39.37 inches—about 1/10 more than a yard.
5. Stalin.
6. Italy.
7. 184,000.
8. Burma.
9. Trinidad, off the coast of Venezuela; they were imported from India to work the asphalt mines.
10. St. Petersburg and Petrograd.
11. Constantinople and Peking.
12. Munich.
13. Milton S. Eisenhower.